

The Mint Master

Utah Numismatic Society

April 2019

Volume 66, Issue 4

April Contents

Gold Nuggets	2-6
Polymer Notes	7-8
RCR Announcement	9
Book Reviews	12-13
Editors Message	20
Prizes	21
UNS Activities 2019	23
Young Numismatists	25
Back Page	26

Presidents Message

I would like to thank everyone who came out to our Bourse night. It was a good turnout. In April we will be hearing from Doug Nyholm & Ralph Muller about Poly notes. Come out and hear about these notes and perhaps learn some new and interesting facts/information concerning them. This is a good opportunity to show support for club members and receive knowledge from other members which may be used in your own collecting of these notes.

Just a reminder that May is our medal design night so get that creative brain thinking, the guide lines of it are: It has to do something with the state of Utah, if it is copyright we need to get information to see if it is ok for us to use it for our metals.

Don't forget to support our Sister Club, The Ogden Coin club as they are having their coin show April 12 -13, 2019 from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm both days. The address is 1651 North 700 West, Layton, Utah, 84041. Take I-15 to Antelope Drive exit then turn right and the right again. We would also like to say goodbye to a long time member, Rodney Mossbacker, who passed



away on March 18th. Rodney was an active member who was with our society for many years. His passion, knowledge and willingness to share his collections and knowledge with the membership will be missed.

Thank you all for supporting our club.

Cindy Cagle
President

**April 2019 Meeting
7:00 PM April 9th**

NOTICE

**2019 MEMBERSHIP
DUES ARE DUE**

**PLEASE RENEW
YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

April's Agenda

- ♦ Greetings
Cindy Cagle
- ♦ Mini Exhibit
Bruce Griggs
- ♦ New & Views
Don Swain
- ♦ Coin Quiz
Casey Hackford
- ♦ Refreshments
James & Michael Strasser

Gold Nuggets

Doug Nyholm

I recently came across an article regarding the largest gold nuggets ever found. We all see nuggets at various coin shows, some smaller than an ounce, and rarely some exceeding 10 ounces. I often admire these and dream about walking beside an old stream, kicking a rock and there lies a fist size nugget. Obviously this will most likely never happen but during the initial days of the California gold rush it actually was a common occurrence. There are factual reports of early prospectors in the California foothills of just after a few days of searching who were known to have carried out gunny sacks full of egg sized gold nuggets. It sounds crazy but true.

Now as far as large, or should I say, huge nuggets, these too have been found and definitely exist. I, while working at Heritage was able to lift the 'Boot Of Cortez' nugget into its display case. This is the largest known 'surviving' nugget that has been found in North America weighing in at 389.4 Oz! Surprisingly, this monster doesn't even make the list that follows of the worlds largest nuggets. Sadly for collectors or connoisseurs most, but not all, have been melted for their gold content. Following is a list and pictures of some of these monster nuggets.

This list contains the 30 largest nuggets which have been reported. They have been found primarily in Australia but several have come from North America/U.S., South America/Brazil, and one from Russia. Of the 30 on the list the distribution is as follows:

Australia	22
South America/ Brazil	5
North America/U.S.	2
Russia	1



The table below list these 30 spectacular nuggets.

P=Pic available S=Surviving R=Replica Made *=Encrusted with quartz

Name of the nugget	Country of origin	Weight in Oz	Notes
Lady Lock Nugget	Australia	617	P
Canaa Nugget	Brazil	646	SP
Dogtown Nugget	California	711	
Kum Tow Nugget	Australia	796	R
McEvoy Nugget (3 Nuggets)	Australia	810/805/782	
Normandy Nugget	Australia	899	SP
Poseidon Nugget	Australia	953	P
Hand of Faith Nugget	Australia	960	SP
Viscountess Canterbury Nugget	Australia	970	RP
Canadian 3 Nugget	Australia	1099	
Heron Nugget	Australia	1106	
Viscount Canterbury Nugget	Australia	1114	P
Sarah Sands Nugget	Australia	1117	
Golden Eagle Nugget	Australia	1135	P
Canaa 4 Nugget	Brazil	1185	SP
Canadian 2 Nugget	Australia	1224	
Canaa 3 Nugget	Brazil	1230	SP
Great Triangle Nugget	Russia	1277	SP
Canaa 2 Nugget	Brazil	1430	SP
Lady Hotham Nugget	Australia	1576	
Monumental Nugget	California	1696	PR
Precious Nugget	Australia	1717	P
Blanch Barkly Nugget	Australia	1743	
Leg of Mutton/Canadian Nugget	Australia	2144	
Canaa Nugget	Brazil	2145	SP
RNC Minerals 2 Nugget	Australia	2222*	SP
Welcome Nugget	Australia	2433	RP
RNC Minerals 1 Nugget	Australis	3351*	SP
Welcome Stranger Nugget	Australia	3524	RP
Holtermann Nugget	Australia	10229*	P

The Brazilian gold rush of the 1980's produced the five large Canna nuggets. All have survived and are on display at the Banco Central Museum in Brasilia.



Canaa 5 / 646 Ounces



Canaa 4 / 1185 Ounc-



Canaa 3 / 1230 Ounces



Canaa 4 / 1430 Ounces



Canaa Nugget / 2145 Ounces



Neither of the two California nuggets on the list have survived but a replica exists of the Monumental nugget found near Magalia, 1696 Oz. Magalia is located a few miles from Paradise, the site of the recent devastating fire.

One of the earliest gold nuggets of documented very large nugget was found in Russia in the Ural Mountains in 1842. This is on display at the Kremlin Armory in Moscow. It weighs 1277 ounces.



Most, but not all of the nuggets listed are virtually pure gold. There are several listed which are found encrusted with quartz and other minerals. These include the RNC Minerals #1 and #2. The larger example weighing in at 2222 ounces is estimated to contain about 1600 ounces of gold if it were to be processed.



The second RNC Minerals nugget also encrusted with quartz and total weight of 3351 ounces is estimated to contain over 2400 ounces of actual gold.



The final encrusted nugget on the list is also the largest single piece of gold ever found. This is named the Holtermann nugget that weighed in at 10,229 ounces. It was found in New South Wales Australia in October 1872 and was soon crushed and the gold extracted.



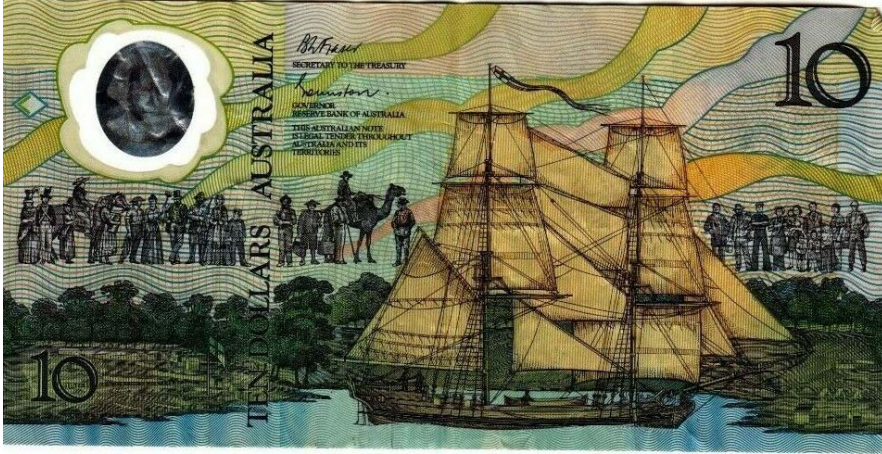
As noted in the list several of the worlds largest nuggets exist only as replicas. One interesting fact regarding the 'Welcome Nugget' which weighs 2433 ounces was that it was brought to the Royal Mint in England where it was melted and turned into gold sovereign coins.

The even larger and so far as known to be the largest pure gold nugget that weighed 3524 ounces was found in Australia in 1869 and was also melted.

So, the next time you're in Northern California or for that matter, somewhere in Australia, keep an eye to the ground and dream that your find may be the next super-large nugget to find its way onto this list.

POLYMER BANKNOTES

Doug Nyholm



I became interested in these new polymer notes a year ago when many new issues were being reported around the world. It seemed like more and more countries were issuing these notes. The reasons noted were most commonly, for anti-counterfeiting and also durability and cost.

Since then quite a few additional countries have instituted and issued these polymer notes with six countries that have 100% converted from paper. One of the more notable countries is Canada, our

northern neighbor. The first to issue polymer notes and also the first to completely convert to them was Australia. This began in 1988 and so far everything is going smoothly.

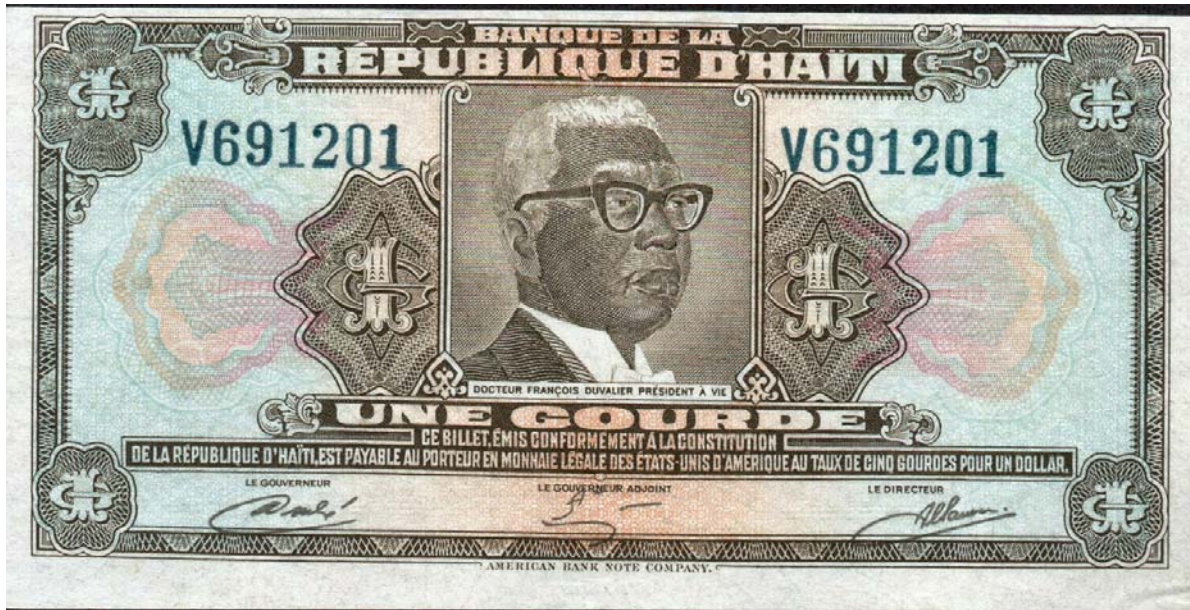
Polymer banknotes began with their forerunner notes which were originally made out of DuPont's Tyvek material. This was experimented with in 1982 with notes printed and did, to a point, circulate briefly in Costa Rica and Haiti. Soon after Honduras and El Salvador followed. These notes were essentially overlooked by collectors and could be purchased for only a few dollars each. When Australia issued their first true polymer note in 1988 these Tyvek notes were still unrecognized as collectable other than a novelty but today that has seriously changed. Virtually all of the early experimental Tyvek notes now sell for hundreds of dollars and are a scarce find.

The first advantage of polymer is touted to be their difficulty to counterfeit. Indeed they are, but I have read articles that state that counterfeiters have tried. Should we suspect anything less? I haven't however seen any actuals or even pictures of fake polymer notes as of yet.

The second advantage of polymer is their durability. Initially the issuance of these notes seemed to appear first in tropical climates and countries. Generally high humidity has very detrimental effects on paper which causes the banknotes in these climates to become flimsy and war very quickly. Polymer solved this problem as the notes are not affected by these conditions and it also has been reported that they last two or three times as long as a paper note.

Finally there is a production cost advantage. Initially ramping up to produce the polymer can be significant but if sustained the savings can be significant after several years. Also initially on some early notes the ink could smear and actually rub off but the technological advancements have solved this and virtually all of the early production problems. Finally, in listing benefits





some of these new polymer notes can be amazingly beautiful and colorful.

As with just about anything there are disadvantages but these are few and relatively minor. They include foldability of the currency and the actual notes can be slippery.

Collecting of these notes can be fun. Most are well less than \$10 each and easily obtainable. I have ordered a number from EBay and our UNS dealer, Ralph Muller, has a great supply. As is stated earlier I also believe that with some searching of dealers stock it may be possible to pull out an earlier Tyvek note for just a few dollars. Unfortunately I haven't been so lucky yet. These polymer notes are here to stay and will be proliferating to more countries and issues. It is a fun and expensive new area to began a collection with.



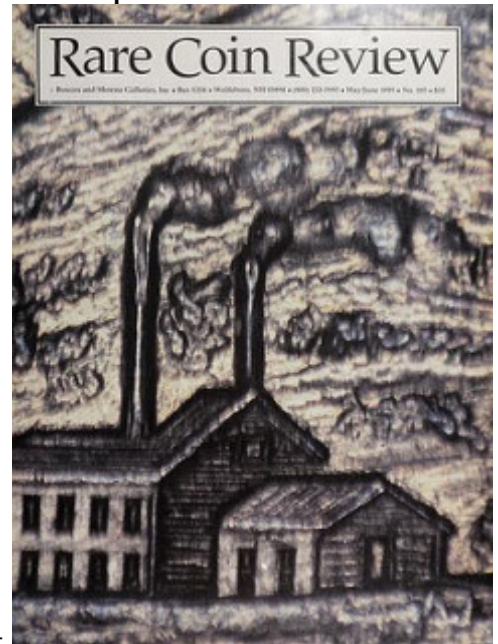
BOWERS RARE COIN REVIEW ON NEWMAN PORTAL

The latest addition to the Newman Numismatic Portal is the *Rare Coin Review*. Project Coordinator Len Augsbury provided the following report. -Editor

With the kind permission of PCGS president Brett Charville, Newman Portal is pleased to announce the availability of the Bowers & Merena house organ, *Rare Coin Review*, on Newman Portal. This publication ran from 1969 (then under the Hathaway & Bowers banner) until 2003, likely the longest such emission in American numismatic history (Stack's *Numismatic Review* is also in the running).

Rare Coin Review appeared bimonthly for most of its life, and contained feature articles, coins presented at fixed prices, auction previews, and copious commentary from Q. David Bowers on numismatic matters large and small. Sometimes, the small matters were the more interesting! On a personal note, this was the publication that drew the present writer back into numismatics after graduating from college.

Rare Coin Review attracted some of the best writers in the field, as authors were simply more happy to write for Dave than for other editors. The coin offerings were of course the main draw for most readers, and one might find anything from a rare colonial to popular coins like Morgan dollars. There was always something for everyone, from the beginning collector to the specialist, and this was no doubt a great part of its appeal.



House organs such as *Rare Coin Review* are often overlooked as a source of information, yet they can be a gold mine of valuable data and research. Seen more as ephemeral selling tools, they are read and set aside (or even tossed aside - I was a dedicated bibliophile to assemble a complete set). Like Len, I became ever-more intrigued with the hobby through articles - in my case, ones on encased postage stamps and merchant counterstamps.

As I grew into a numismatic bibliophile I became fascinated with the house organs of yesteryear such as *The Elderly*, *Mehl's Numismatic Monthly* and *Kelly's Coins and Chatter*, all of which contain interesting and often important information later forgotten by the community at large. Many thanks to PCGS and NNP for making RCR available to collectors and researchers everywhere. -Editor

Link to Rare Coin Review on Newman Portal:
<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/publisherdetail/512756>

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PR64 PCGS



1909 VDB Lincoln Cent
PR64 Red PCGS



1860 Dime
PR64+ Cameo PCGS. CAC



1864 Quarter
PR64 PCGS



1863 Half Dollar
PR64 PCGS



1869 Seated Dollar
PR64 PCGS



1878 8 Tailfeathers Dollar
PR64 Cameo PCGS. CAC



1878 7 Tailfeathers Dollar
Reverse of 1878
PR64 Cameo NGC



1895 Dollar
PR64 Cameo PCGS

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MS68 Red PCGS



1923-S Cent
MS65 Red PCGS



1924-D Cent
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MS65 Red PCGS



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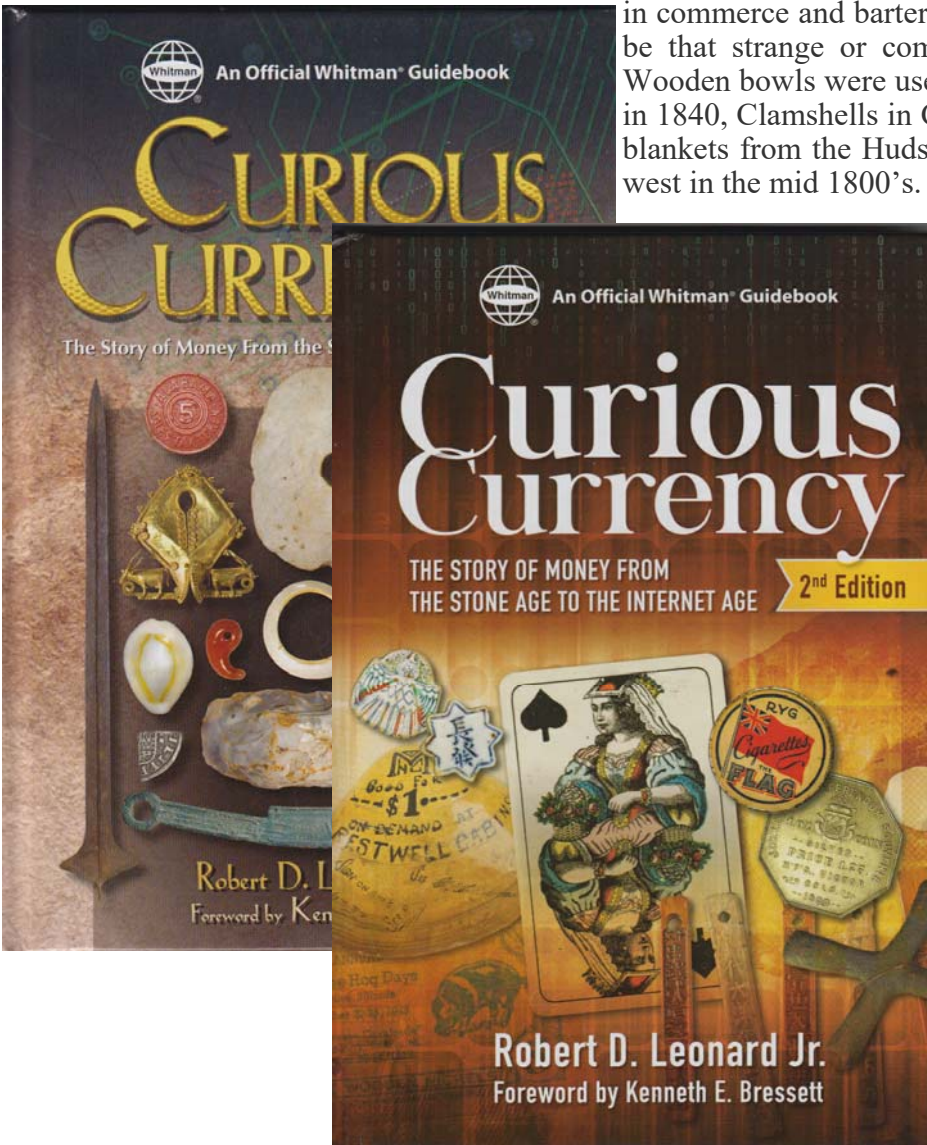
BOOK REVIEW #1

Curious Currency / 2nd Edition

By Robert D. Leonard Jr.

I have just received the 2nd edition of "Curious Currency" by Robert D. Leonard Jr. This book is published by Whitman and has a cover price of \$16.95. It is a hard cover in full color and full of pictures of items you would never have thought would circulate as currency. I thought the author had covered just about everything in his first book, which Whitman also published in 2010 but his second edition is full of new material. Both books contain 153 pages and make fascinating reading.

We are all familiar with wooden nickels, Yap stone money, and various beads utilized in commerce. However are you aware of elephant tails, Beetle legs, and flying fox jaws that have been used as a monetary equivalent in commerce and barter? All of the items in this book may not be that strange or come from the far corners of the world. Wooden bowls were used as small change in Allegan Michigan in 1840, Clamshells in California as recently as the 1930's, and blankets from the Hudson Bay Company in the Pacific Northwest in the mid 1800's.



Both editions make very interesting reading and will take an evening or two of your time and be very entertaining.



BOOK REVIEW #2

Polymer Bank Notes of the World

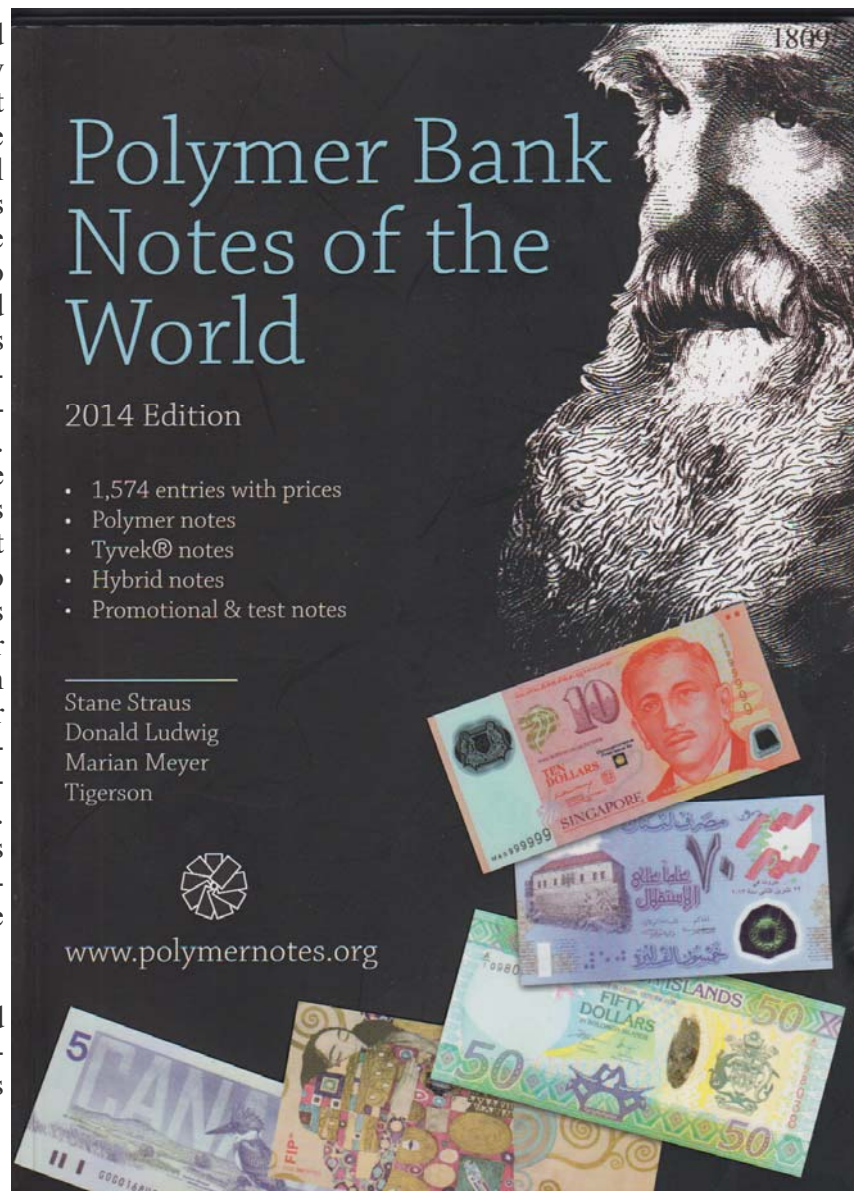
2014 Edition

Stane Straus/Donald Ludwig/Marian Meyer/Tigerson

There was no book review for the March issue so this month I will make up for that by adding a second review. There is an article in this issue also regarding Polymer banknotes and my research began by utilizing this book, which is surprisingly hard to locate. The edition reviewed here is the 2014 edition. A first edition was published in 2012 and a third edition dated 2016 was printed but again, all are difficult to locate. If you are interested, with some research and by googling the title you may find some hits but none are generally available except if you order from Europe. Approximate price is \$35. All editions are printed in English and are soft cover, 8 1/2 x 11 and fully illustrated in color.

The 2014 edition contains 144 pages and contains significant information not easily found elsewhere. You may be able to get the same general information from the Krause 'phonebook' reference but it will take some searching and the full color pics along with the notes and information are indispensable if you decide to delve into the hobby of collecting these modern and interesting notes. Once again, this book is dedicated to these modern notes and actually begins with the forerunner of true polymer notes which were made out of Tyvek. Tyvek notes are actually similar to the Tyvek plastic you see covering buildings under construction and still used for that purpose today. Additionally the book also examines and describes Hybrid notes which are primarily paper with strips or pieces of polymer imbedded. The main element of the book is the true polymer notes. These notes generally have a portion of the note with a clear window allowing the holder to see thru the note itself. Finally the final section of the book covers uncut sheets, special editions, and experimental notes. The value of many of these can run into the thousands of dollars.

So if you want to deviate from the standard U.S. and world coins or currency by picking up a few of these futuristic banknotes this is the book, or books for you.



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U.S. Coin Highlights



1856 Flying Eagle Cent.
Snow-3.
Proof-66 (PCGS).



1864 Indian Cent.
L On Ribbon.
Proof-65 BN (PCGS). CAC.



1909 Lincoln Cent. VDB.
Proof-66 RB (PCGS).



1913 Buffalo Nickel.
Type I.
Proof-67+ (PCGS).



1920-S Buffalo Nickel.
MS-65 (PCGS).



1820 Capped Bust Dime.
JR-8. Rarity-3. Large 0.
MS-65 (PCGS). CAC.



1827 Capped Bust Dime.
JR-5. Rarity-3.
MS-66 (NGC).



1829 Capped Bust Dime.
JR-7. Rarity-1. Small 10C.
MS-65 (PCGS).



1830/29 Capped Bust Dime.
JR-4. Rarity-2.
MS-66 ★ (NGC).



1961 Washington Quarter.
MS-67+ (PCGS). CAC.



1899 Barber Half Dollar.
Proof-67 Deep Cameo
(PCGS). CAC.



1909 Barber Half Dollar.
Proof-68 Cameo (PCGS).



1876 Trade Dollar.
Proof-66 Cameo (PCGS).

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1. What year was the only year that Canada minted a 20 cent piece?
A) Never
B) 1858
C) 1870
D) 1901
2. What was the only Province to issue a gold coin prior to joining Canada?
A) British Columbia
B) Prince Edward Island
C) Newfoundland
D) New Brunswick
3. What year was the first Silver Dollar minted in Canada?
A) 1858
B) 1913
C) 1911
D) 1935
4. What denomination Canadian coin had Morse Code on it?
A) Nickel
B) Dime
C) Quarter
D) Half Dollar
5. What was the last year Canada issued a circulation .800 Fine Silver coin?
A) 1964
B) 1965
C) 1966
D) 1967



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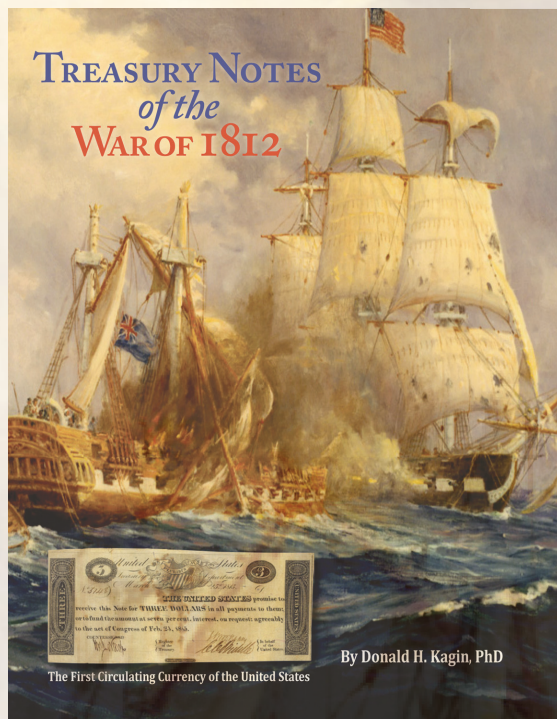
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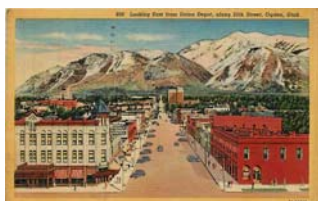


Got Stamps?



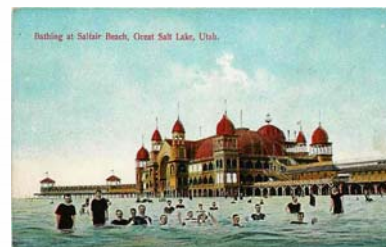
Old letters – Old postcards?

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Dave Blackhurst

801-580-9534



Editors Message

Doug Nyholm

MINT MASTER COSTS

The UNS President and Board has made the decision to transition the Mint Master to become a 100% e-mail publication. For quite some time now your editor has been attempting to reduce the number of hard-copy mailings from what used to be 40-50 individuals several years ago to the current seven.

Both the size of the Mint Master and costs of copying and mailing has grown significantly. In calculating the costs in recent months the annual costs have escalated to over \$275 yearly just for the seven or eight hard-copy issues being sent each month. I was a strong advocate for this change as the cost for just a handful of members could, I feel, be much better utilized for programs aimed at the general membership including our Youth Night, Picnic, and the Christmas/Holiday dinner.

I am sorry if this change inconveniences these seven individuals but today in 2019 virtually everyone has access to email. Of if not they have a relative or close friend who does and can supply a copy of the publication to them. A letter was sent to those seven people and I hope that they contact me with a valid e-mail address to use for future mailings.

As a second note, I realize that e-mail address do occasionally change. I, and our secretary, try to keep an accurate list of our members but if for some reason you do not receive your copy of the Mint Master by the first week of each month please contact me immediately.

Sincerely,
Doug Nyholm



The Silver Dollar
Rare Coins

Andrew Barton

801-930-9920

thesilverdollar.net
thesilverdollarshop@gmail.com

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**Andrew Barton has opened a
new coin shop in Midvale.**

**Stop in and say hi and check
out what he has for sale.**

PRIZES FOR APRIL

Promptness Prize: 1982 Silver Washington Half Dollar

Junior Prize: No Motto Collection coins
#

Member Prize: 2002 S silver Pf. Half Dollar

The Buy of the month is: TBA

- 1- 1851 Large Penny
- 2- 1926 S Peace Silver dollar
- 3- Lucky money note
- 4- State Quarter set
- 5- 1922 Peace silver dollar
- 6- 2003 UNS Bz. Medal
- 7- 1922 P & D Silver dollars
- 8- 2000 S silver proof half dollar
- 9- Morgan Silver dollar
- 10- 1922 Peace toned silver dollar
- 11- 2008 bald eagle ½ dollar



Woo-hoo!!!

The Prizes!!!!!!

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UTAH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY 2019 SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS



April

Speaker—Doug Nyholm &
Ralph Muller

May

Club Birthday & Medals Design

June

Youth Night

July

Picnic

August

Speaker—TBA

September

Club Auction

October

Speaker –TBA

November

Speaker—TBA

December

Christmas Dinner

2019 OFFICERS & BOARD

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YOUNG NUMISMATISTS

PHIL CLARK

SOME NUMISMATISTS EMBRACE THE PHILOSOPHY OF “BUY THE HOLDER, NOT THE COIN” AND FOR GOOD REASON

The April 2019 issue of Coin World contains an article by Jeff Starck, one of its senior editors, which is both interesting and informative as it explains why some numismatists have chosen to collect encapsulation holders or slabs without regard for the coin or item they contain. The article provides an excellent brief historical look at the beginnings of third-party authentication and eventual grading, its growth and shrinkage to the point we are today where there are only four first tier companies which includes ANACS, ICG, NGC, and PCGS. One dealer and collector says that he has upwards of fifty (50) holders from now defunct companies. In 1986, Coin World reported on the existence of at least thirteen different companies offering authentication, grading and encapsulation services. For the holder collector; the shorter the life span of a given company, fewer examples of their holders exist making them scarcer, rarer, and harder to find and obtain.

Jeff's article then discusses varietal considerations for holder collectors. Besides what would be considered routine encapsulation for authentication, grading, and protection purposes; there are holders that are considered error, sample, and special examples. Error examples include misidentified contents, incomplete or erroneous content information, improperly placed labeling, etc. Sample holders/slabs are sometimes provided by companies for promotional and/or commemorative purposes. Promotional might be thought of as advertising a new label format, a new feature such as the insert, or a new overall holder. Societal gatherings, weddings, special events, coin shows, and school reunions are often commemorated with free or minimal cost slabbed coins. Special slab examples usually refer to a coin for which many label formats exist. Think of special captions like Early Release and First Strike, label colors and background pictures. All important in differentiating the holders but not the content over the long run.



Whether you collect holders or slabs as end items, this article is worth the read. It provides valuable insight into the enthusiasm shown by Jeff Arbogast when he spoke about the same subject as a guest speaker at one of our meetings. Imagine the joy and excitement a slab collector must experience when they find a scarce slab that happens to also contain a valuable coin.

UNS Membership Application

Application for membership in the “Utah Numismatic Society”

P.O. Box 65054, Salt Lake City, UT 84165

Name(s) of Applicants: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone Number: _____

Signature: _____

ANNUAL DUES

☐ \$30 Family

☐ \$20 Adult

☐ \$5 Junior / Under 18

Where & When we meet:

Second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M.

Columbus Community Center / 2531 South 500 East, SLC, UT 84115

*By signing this application I
acknowledge that I have never
been convicted of a felony.*

The Utah Numismatic Society is now enjoying its 67th year serving collectors in Utah. We sponsor an annual coin show held in Sandy which you may have attended. Our monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday in Salt Lake City. We have many knowledgeable as well as novice and beginning collectors in attendance every month.

Our monthly publication entitled “The Mint Master” contains interesting reading featuring articles such as the ‘Counterfeit Corner,’ ‘Book Reviews,’ ‘Young Numismatists,’ as well as many other numismatic news-worthy columns.

Our meetings include Bourse, Auctions, expert speakers as well as our annual “Youth Night” and “Summer Picnic.”

We invite you to attend one of our meetings held at the Columbus Community Center, 2350 S. 500 E., Salt Lake City.



Quiz answers

1. B 1858
2. C Newfoundland
3. C 1911
4. A Nickel
5. D 1967